CLAIMS

1. A compound consisting of an oligonucleotide of sequence CAGCAGCAGAGTCTTCATCAT; SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein the oligonucleotide has a phosphorothioate backbone throughout, the sugar moieties of nucleotides 1-4 and 18-21 bear 2'-O-methoxyethyl modifications, and the remaining nucleotides (nucleotides 5-17) are 2'-deoxynucleotides, and wherein the cytosines of nucleotides 1, 4 and 19 are 5-methylcytosines.

2. A method for delaying progression of prostatic tumor cells to an androgen-independent state, comprising treating androgen-sensitive prostatic tumor cells *in vivo* with an antisense oligonucleotide which inhibits expression of TRPM-2 by the tumor cells, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 4, wherein the oligonucleotide has a phosphorothioate backbone throughout, the sugar moieties of nucleotides 1-4 and 18-21 bear 2'-O-methoxyethyl modifications, and the remaining nucleotides (nucleotides 5-17) are 2'-deoxynucleotides, and wherein the cytosines of nucleotides 1, 4 and 19 are 5-methylcytosines.

3. A method for treating prostate cancer in an individual suffering from prostate cancer, comprising the steps of initiating androgen-withdrawal to induce apoptotic cell death of prostatic tumor cells in the individual, and administering to the individual a composition effective to inhibit expression of TRPM-2 by the tumor cells, thereby delaying the progression of prostatic tumor cells to an androgen-independent state in an individual, wherein the composition effective to inhibit expression of TRPM-2 is an antisense oligonucleotide, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 4, wherein the oligonucleotide has a phosphorothioate backbone throughout, the sugar moieties of nucleotides 1-4 and 18-21 bear 2'-O-methoxyethyl modifications, and the remaining nucleotides (nucleotides 5-17) are 2'-deoxynucleotides, and wherein the cytosines of nucleotides 1, 4 and 19 are 5-methylcytosines.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of administering to the individual a chemotherapy agent.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the chemotherapy agent is a taxane or mitoxanthrone.

6. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of administering to the individual a second antisense oligonucleotide which inhibits expression of an anti-apoptotic protein other than TRPM-2.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second antisense oligonucleotide is antisense Bcl-2 oligonucleotide.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of administering to the individual a chemotherapy agent.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the chemotherapy agent is a taxane or mitoxanthrone.

10. A method for enhancing the chemo- or radiation sensitivity of cancer cells in an individual suffering from a cancer that expresses TRPM-2 in amounts different from normal tissue of the same type, comprising administering to the individual a composition effective to inhibit expression of TRPM-2 by cancer cells, wherein the composition effective to inhibit expression of TRPM-2 is an antisense oligonucleotide, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 4, wherein the oligonucleotide has a phosphorothioate backbone throughout, the sugar moieties of nucleotides 1-4 and 18-21 bear 2'-O-methoxyethyl modifications, and the remaining nucleotides (nucleotides 5-17) are 2'-deoxynucleotides, and wherein the cytosines of nucleotides 1, 4 and 19 are 5-methylcytosines.

11. A method of delaying of progression of a population of prostatic tumor cells from a state in which living prostatic tumor cells are androgen-sensitive to a state in which living tumor cells are androgen independent, comprising treating the population of androgen-sensitive prostatic tumor cells with an antisense oligonucleotide which inhibits expression of TRPM-2 by the tumor cells, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has the sequence given by SEQ ID No. 4, wherein the oligonucleotide has a phosphorothioate backbone throughout, the sugar moieties of nucleotides 1-4 and 18-21 bear 2'-O-methoxyethyl modifications, and the remaining nucleotides (nucleotides 5-17) are 2'-deoxynucleotides, and wherein the cytosines of nucleotides 1, 4 and 19 are 5-methylcytosines.